cation of this information as it was necessary to get a correct idea of the working of the Marumakkathayam system in the country.

Reply.—If this information is required in connection with the introduction of certain changes in the Marumakkathayam law advocated by the speaker on Saturday, it will be obtained if found necessary. Information on these heads in regard to the people of the State as a whole has been already called for, but it is understood that it is not easy to compile the necessary statistics. Figures are however awaited. The statistics for any one particular community it would be much more difficult to obtain, and it is not clear what useful purpose it will serve unless in the direction indicated above.

89. Investing Zillah courts with the power of inspecting Munsiffs' courts.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karthavu (*Shertallay*) spoke on the desirability of empowering District judges to inspect Munsiffs' courts.

Reply.—It is desirable as in British India to confer such power on Zillah judges. Opportunity will be taken to consider this when amending the Civil Procedure Code. District judges are intermediate officers working close by Munsiffs' courts and it is their recommendations that will weigh with the High Court. It is also undesirable to cast this work wholly on the High Court.

90. Exemption of Mahomedans from attending courts on Fridays.

Mr. K. Kathir Pillai (*Alangad*) requested that Mahomedans might be exempted from attending courts on Fridays and other days observed as religious by them.

Reply.—This was brought up at the last session of the Assembly. The High Court considered the matter and found it impracticable to lay down any hard and fast rule. To exempt particular communities from attending courts on particular days would seriously affect the interests of business. Further, it is open to them to apply for and obtain temporary recess from the courts if they are to be engaged in court business during hours of prayer.

91. Exemption of Roman Catholic Christians from appearance in courts on obligatory religious days and the supply of Roman Catholic Bibles to courts.

Mr. Warkey John (*Travancore and Cochin Roman Catholic Association, Kottayam*) remarked that besides Sundays there were only 13

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

important religious days for the Roman Catholics in a year, and it was hard that they should be compelled to attend courts on these days without being able to perform their religious ceremonies at the appointed hours. He added that the subject of supplying Roman Catholic Bibles to courts was brought up at the last session of the Assembly and that all the courts had not yet been provided with them.

Reply.—The obligation to attend service alone will not interfere with appearance in courts. There is no such exemption in British India. To lay down a general rule of the kind will seriously hamper the disposal of public business. Applications, however, for late attendance or temporary absence may be made to the courts in individual cases.

As regards the supply of Catholic Bibles, it is observed that all the Magistrates' courts have been already provided with them and since the last session of the Assembly, all civil courts have been also supplied with copies of these Bibles. If any court still remains to be supplied, it will be attended to.

92. Prevention of delay in the execution of decrees and the necessity for improving the method of execution now adopted.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillay, B. A., (*Kottayam*) said that it was desirable that the District judges should convene a meeting of Munsiffs and, after discussing with them the difficulties in the practical working of the present High Court proceedings and circulars on the subject, suggest for the consideration of the High Court any improvements in them that might be deemed necessary.

Reply.—This is a peculiar mode of doing business which, I think, need not be suggested to the High Court. They will themselves see to this if found necessary.

93. Avoidance of delay in the grant of copies of records from courts.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (*Ettumanur*) suggested that for avoiding the delay experienced at present in this matter the number of copyists might be increased, and that, when original documents were presented in courts, the parties themselves might be given permission to produce copies of them.

Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (*Eraniel*) also suggested the desirability

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly